

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 90-467-E - ORDER NO. 90-906 ✓

SEPTEMBER 21, 1990

IN RE: Application of South Carolina Electric     )  
and Gas Company for a Certificate of     ) ORDER  
Environmental Compatibility and Public     ) GRANTING  
Convenience and Necessity for Timberlake     ) CERTIFICATE  
230 KV Tap Line and Timberlake 230-23KV     )  
Substation.     )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of an Application filed on July 5, 1990, by South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) requesting a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction of the Timberlake 230 KV Tap Line and Substation to be located in Newberry and Lexington Counties of South Carolina. The Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann., §58-33-10 et seq. (1976).

Upon receipt of the Application, the Commission's Executive Director instructed the Applicant to cause to be published a prepared Notice of Hearing in newspapers of general circulation in the affected area in South Carolina. The Notice described the nature of the relief sought herein and provided general information on the manner in which interested parties might participate in the proceeding. The Applicant subsequently filed certain affidavits of publication indicating compliance with the instructions of the

Commission's Executive Director. Additionally, the Applicant served a copy of the Application on all parties as required by S.C. Code Ann., §§58-33-120 and 58-33-140 (1976).

A public hearing was held on September 4, 1990, in the Office of the Commission. Elizabeth F. Mallin, Esquire, represented the Company; and Sarena D. Burch appeared on behalf of the Commission Staff.

The Commission, based on the evidence in the record, makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. The Applicant testified concerning the need for the Timberlake 230-23 kV Substation and the 230 kV tap from Summer-Graniteville 230 kV line to the Substation. The substation will be constructed on a seven acre parcel of land near the intersection of Long Pine Road and Amicks Ferry Road in Lexington County. The tap will be approximately 7.5 miles long.

The Timberlake 230-23 kV distribution substation and 230 kV tap are needed to provide reliable service to customers in the northern part of the Lake Murray area of the Company's distribution system, an area which is developing at a rapid rate. The load is presently served from the White Rock 115-23 kV Substation. With continued development, the electrical requirements in this area cannot be adequately served by this substation. In fact, it has been necessary for the Company to install an additional transformer at White Rock Substation as a temporary measure to serve the load until the Timberlake Substation is put into service. This substation, when completed, will allow the Company to continue to

provide reliable service to its distribution customers in the developing northern Lake Murray area at the lowest reasonable cost.

The Commission finds, based on the evidence in the record, that there is a need for the facilities and that the facilities will serve the interest of system economy and reliability.

2. SCE&G witness Hickman testified that an environmental study was made by EBASCO Environmental of Atlanta, Georgia and completed in March 1990. The final assessment was included in the Application submitted to the Commission on July 3, 1990. The conclusions of this assessment were that the proposed project will have no significant effects on land use, vegetation, wildlife, and threatened or endangered species. The assessment pointed out potential erosion problems along portions of the route, but these have been addressed. Appropriate measures, such as leaving undisturbed as much underbrush and ground cover as possible, will be taken during and after construction to minimize erosion. The assessment also mentioned potentially adverse effects to wetlands as a result of clearing and grubbing activities. However, no structures will be located within delineated wetland areas; therefore, construction activities within these areas will be minimal. There are no plans to grub these areas, and SCE&G will selectively clear only those trees that could come into contact with the transmission line. The positive effects of increased reliability of electrical power will compensate for the minimal visual effects and temporary effects associated with construction of the proposed substation and transmission line. An

archaeological survey assessment was conducted. No archaeological sites were found in the vicinity of the proposed substation site.

SCE&G testified that alternatives were considered. SCE&G considered constructing the substation at 115 kV. This would have required constructing a 115 kV line approximately 6 miles to tap the Saluda Hydro-Georgia Pacific-Duke 115 kV tie line. This line has very limited power transfer capability. Serving the additional Timberlake load from this source would have required that the Company rebuild the entire 21 miles of line between Saluda Hydro and Duke. This alternative was rejected due to its substantially higher cost. SCE&G also considered tapping the Parr-Edenwood 230 kV line. This line would have crossed I-26 and U.S. 76 and would have been 2 miles longer than the selected route. This alternative was rejected because of the additional expense and increased impact on the environment.

The Commission finds, based on the evidence in the record, that the impact of the facility upon the environment is justified, considering the state of available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives and other pertinent considerations.

3. SCE&G testified that in accordance with statutory requirements, the Company served a copy of the Application on the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources, the Water Resources Commission, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the Institute of Archaeology and

Anthropology, the Lexington County Administrator, and the Newberry County Administrator. Also, public notice of the Application has been given by publication in the State Register and the Chapin Times.

The Company received letters from the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department and the South Carolina Water Resources Commission expressing concerns about certain construction and maintenance activities within wetland areas. The Company has communicated with both agencies and the expressed concerns have been satisfactorily resolved. Correspondence on these matters has been filed with the Commission.

4. The Commission finds, based on the evidence in the record, that there is reasonable assurance that the proposed facility will conform to applicable State and local laws and regulations issued thereunder.


The Commission concludes, based on the above findings, that public convenience and necessity requires the construction of the facility.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity for the Timberlake 230 kV Tap Line and Timberlake 230-23kV Substation is hereby approved.

2. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)